Unto his Grace His Majeſties high Commiſſioner, ane Honourable Eſtates of Parliament,

The PETITION of

George Mackenzie *Sub-tacksman of the Additional and Annexed-Exciſe of the Northern Shires.*

Humbly ſheweth,

THat where your Petioner having unhappily engaged himſelf in *July* 1695, in a Tack of the Additional and Annexed Excile for the ſeveral Shires benorth *Tay*, for which he was bound by his Tack to pay 19423 *lib. ſter.*

After ſubſcribing of his Tack, he immediatly went North to appoint Collectors in the ſeveral Towns and Shires, and to regulat the Brewers; But ſhortly after there happning a great Scarcity in the Northern Countries, Brewing was for the moſt part given up, ſo that it was not poſſible to make up the Tack-duty.

Your Petitioner foreſeeing the ſad and calamitus Condition, and the apparent Famine in theſe places, and finding that there was not the leaſt poſſibility for him to make good his Tack; He made Application firſt to the principal Tackſmen, and then to the Lords of Theſaury, who after conſideration of what he had repreſented, gave him a Siſt of Execution, as to one half of his Tack-duty.

Thereafter the ſad and deplorable Condition of theſe Countries increaſing, the Country Brewers were ſo far from continuing to Brew, that there was not Bear to be had to make Meal of to keep in their Lives, ſo notwithſtanding of all the Trouble, Fatigue and Expenſe your Petitioner was brought to, it was not poſſible for him to make one half of his Tack-duty, and yet to ſave himſelf and his Cautioners ſo far as he was able, he has payed in what he has collected, and near one thouſand pound *ſterling* more of his own proper Stock, which goes very near to ruine him, but he yet lying under the Obligation of his Tack to pay 9000 *lib, ſterling*, which he never received, he is neceſſitat humbly to Addreſs the Honourable and High Court of Parliament in this matter.

By his Tack it is declared, that if the Accidents of Plague, Famine or War, ſhould fall out, his Tack ſhould fall, and from thence-furth be null: That there was Famine in theſe places is but too noture, but that the Truth might the more fully appear, there were Declarations ſigned by ſeveral Noblemen and Gentlemen in the reſpective Shires, which were preſented to the Lords of Theſaury, and which are hereto ſubjoyned, as a farder evidence of the condition of that Countrey.

What was formerly repreſented to the Lords of Theſaury, was found by them to be true and after the Petitioner had made Application to his Majeſty by his Officers of State. His Majeſty was graciouſly pleaſed to recommend the Lords of Theſaury, to make Inquiry anent the true State and Condition of the Countrey, and to make a Report thereof to his Majeſty, which accordingly they did, and found that what your Petitioner had formerly repreſented, was true in every Circumſtance.

The Petitioner was ſo far from pretending benefit by his Tack, that he has payed near one thouſand pound *ſterling* more than ever he made of it, and the principal Tackſmen do very well know, that albeit his Collection was in the time of the greateſt Scarſity and Dearth, yet he has payed 1500 *lib. ſter.* more for the Five Pennies than they can now make effectual in all theſe Shires for the ſix pennies, when there is leſs Scarſity and cheaper Victual.

By all which it may evidently appear to his Grace, and honourable Eſtates of Parliament, that the great Loſs and Damnage the petioner has ſuſtained, aroſe from the Dearth and Famine

mine which immediatly followed his Tack, and which was *Caſus fortuitus, & vis divina*, and could not be foreſeen, ſo that he could not reſiſt divine Providence in this matter. And it w. r a Hardſhip above whatever His Majeſty or his Miniſters did, to take the ſmall Stock of the sub-tackſman, who in Zeal to His Majeſties Service, has advanced on his own Credit conſiderably more as he has gotten in, and is content to loſe it ; And it is humbly hoped, that your Grace and honourable Eſtates of parliament, in Juſtice and Mercy will conſider his Circumſtances, and ſince none, far leſs a gracious Prince ſhould reap profite by a poor mans Stock, who keeps not one Farthing of the Kings, but willingly and faithfully ſerves him for nothing.

May it therefore pleaſe your Grace and honourable Eſtates of Parliament, to conſider the premiſſes, and ſeing your petitioner relyed much upon the Quality of his Tack, and that his taking Inſtruments againſt the principal Tacksman, and proving the Condition of the Countrey by ſo pregnant Evidences, was ſufficient to exoner him ; That therefore your Grace and Lordſhips would be pleaſed to declare his Tack a Collection, with this Qualty, that albeit his Collection be leſs than the Sum of 10423 lib. ſterling, *which he has already payed, yet the petitioner is to repeat no part thereof, but the declaring of his Tack a Collection, is only to this effect, that Inquiry may be made if his Collection (his neceſſar Charges being deduced) exceeds the Sum already payed ; Or otherwiſe, if your Grace and Honourable Eſtates of parliament think it not convenient to o p . the Tack that you would be pleaſed to exoner him of the* 9000 lib. ſter. *for which he has got ſo frequent Siſts, and which is the juſt proportion, conform to the late Report from the Exchequer to His* Majeſty. And your Petitioner ſhall ever pray.

DECLARATION

In Favours of the BREWERS *and* TACKSMEN *of the* EXCISE, *with the Tenor of the* Repreſentation *given in by the Noblemen, Gentlemen, and Magiſtrats of the* North Shires, *concerning the Dearth and Famine in their Shires and Towns, with the* Reaſons *why the Brewers have given up, and the Exciſe cannot be made Effectual*; Viz.

WE the Noblemen, Barons and Heretors of the Shires of *Angus, Merns, Aberdeen, Bamff*, and *Be North* ; Conſidering that *George Mackenzie* Subtackſman of the Annexed and Additional Exciſe, has ſeveral Proceſſes depending before the Commiſſioners of Supply and Exciſe, againſt ſeveral of our Tennents who have been in uſe of brewing upon our Ground, for their giving over that Trade of Brewing at this time : *Do therefore* Teſtifie and Declare, That there was an abſolute neceſſity for their giving over, by reaſon of the want of Malt and Bear, and the Dearth thereof this year ; the price of the Malt and Bear giving with us 12 or 13 *lib. Scots* to *Martinmas* next, which is more than triple value of former years, being occaſioned by the laſt years bad Cropt, and the unnatural Storms of Rain which fell out in Harveſt laſt, and our Tennents being in Arrear to us the full half part of their Rent in ſeveral places, ſo that by theſe Calamities the Brewers have given over, and generally quite broke, and the few that does brew are not able to pay the foreſaid price for the ſaid Malt and Bear, with the double Exciſe ; ſo that for this Seaſon there is no hope of Brewing, and the ſcarcity and badneſs of the laſt years Cropt, has occaſioned not only Dearth, but Famine to all the *Poor*, who are dying in ſeveral parts for Want, and a great part of the Land is not ſowen for want of Seed, ſo that we are neceſſitat to diſcharge Brewing in ſeveral places : And to Order the making the Meal of Bear, and to keep up the famine for the uſe of the Poor, that are in a ſtarving Condition. The like Scarcity and Want not being ſeen for many Ages. This We in all Humility, Repreſent to the Right Honourable the Lords of His Majeſties Theaſaury and Exchequer, praying them to conſider the Condition of the Brewers and Tackſmen, and to forbid their Farmers to moleſt the ſaid Brewers on their deſiſting from Brewing, by reaſon of the foreſaids ſad Calamities, and to Diſcharge any Trouble to be given them on that account, that the *Poor* may have Bread, and not Starve, which even this will hardly prevent.

The

The Names and Designations of the Subscribers, as follows, viz.

For *Aberdeen-shire.*

EArl of *Errol*,
Earl of *Kintore*,
Lord *Pitsligo*,
Sir *Thomas Burnet* of *Lyes*,
Sir *John Forbes* of *Craigievar*,
Samuel Forbes of *Foveran*,
Andrew Frazer of *Kinnmundie* Sheriff-Deput,
James Gordon of *Seatoun*,
Robert Ross of *Auchloffen*,
John Udney of that Ilk,
Roderick Forbes of *Brux*,
George Keith of *Creichy*,
James Moor of *Stonywood*,
John Udney of *Newtyle*.

For the Town of *Aberdeen.*

Robert Cruckshank of *Banchry*, provost.

Bamff-Shire.

EArl of *Finlator*,
the Lord *Boyne*,
James Abernethy of *Birkenbog*,
Alexander Ogilvie of *Foirgland*,
William Bumbar of *Durn*,
Alexander Gairden of *Troup*,
George Leslie of *Burdsbank*,
Alexander Hay of *Arnbath*.

Angus *and* Kincardine-shires.

David Grahame of *Fintrey*,
Hercules Scot of *Brothertoun*,
Mr. *Robert Burnet* of *Glenbervie*,
James Scot of *Logie*,
William Barclay of *Balmagequand*.

Town *and* Shire *of* Inverness.

George Cuthbert of *Castlehill*,
William Robertson of *Inches*,
James Mackintosh of *Termit*,
Angus Mackintosh of *Kelachie*,
William Duff of *Dipple*,
Hugh Frazer of *Belladrum*,
William Baillie of *Dr nzeain*,
William Baillie Commissar of *Inverness*,
John Grant of *Corimonie*.
Machpherson of *Clunie*,
Mr. *Daniel Polson* of *Kinmyle*, Sheriff-deput *of* Inverness,
William Frazer of *Erchert*,
Alexander Frazer of
James Baillie of
Cumming of *Dalshanie*
Hugh Robertson, Provost,
James Macklain Baillie,
Alexander Duff of *Drummor* Baillie.

Cullen Town

JOhn *Baird* Baillie,
Patrick Sanders Baillie
Thomas Murray Clerk
John Lorimer Counsellor
William Strachan Counsellor
William Wallace Councellor.

Bamff Town

ALexander *Lesly* of *Kinninvie* Provost,
Walter Stuart late Provost.
Robert Sanders Baillie
Alexander Wallace Baillie
James Ogilvie Baillie,
George Leith late Baillie
William Scot Dean of Guild,
James perik Thesaurer

The Declaration of North Inverness, Ross *and* Cromarty, *has this Addition*, &c.

LIkewise, We declare, that by reason of the badness of the last years Cropt, there is such Scarsity of Beer and Malt here, that there is a great Dearth and Famine amongst our Commons, and in several places, the Land is not Sowen for want of Seed, and all this Summer they could hardly get Beer to buy to make Meal thereof, and we are necessitate to buy up Beer wherever we can get it, and furnish them, to make Meal thereof, for the use of the poor that are in a Starving Condition. This we in all humility represent to the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of His Majesties Thesaury and Exchequer, to consider the Condition of the Tacksmen and Brewers, and to allow the Brewers their desisting that the Poor and Commons may have Bread and not Starve, which we are afraid of, if GOD in his Infinit Mercy prevent it not.

SIR

SIR *John Monro* of *Foulis*
Sir *Alexander Mackenzie* of *Coul*
Hugh Monro Younger of *Foulis*
David Monro of *Kiltearn*,
David Monro of *Teaninich*
William Monro of *Teanerd*,
George Mouro of *Culrain*,
John Beaton of *Calwaskea*,
Sir *Donald Bayne* of *Tulloch*,
Alexander Forreſter of *Culnald*,
Colin Mabkenzie Elder of *Redcaſtle*.
Rod. Mackenzie Younger of *Redcaſtle*
Rod. Mackenzie of *Culcovie*.
Alexander Mackenzie younger of *Dachmaluag*:
David Monro of *Dalmoir*,
John Roſs of *Achnaloch*,
William Roſs of *Aldy*,
Alexander Roſs of *Pitherry*,

Cromarty Shire

Kenneth Mackenzie of *Cromarty*
Alexander Clunies of *Neilſtoun*
Alexander Urquhart of *Newhall*
John Urquhart of *Craighouſe*

The Burgh of *Tayne*

Walter Roſs Provoſt of *Tayne*
John Roſs late Provoſt of *Tayne*
Alexander Hay Baillie of *Tayne*,

The Burgh of *Fortroſs*

Thomas Forbes Balilie of *Fortroſs*.

The Declaration *by the Shire of* Cathneſs *has this Addition, viz.*

WE the Commiſſioners of Supplie, and other Heritors of the Shire of *Caithneſe*, underſubſcribing, Do hereby Teſtifie and Declare, that the Scarcity of Victual, and eſpecially of Bear in the ſaid Shire, for the Crops 1695. and 1696. is, and has been ſuch, that none living among us have ſeen or felt a greater Famine, and that many have ſtarved for want of Bread; So that the Exciſe cannot make near the half of what formerly it did, by reaſon of the foreſaid Famine.

Sir *George Sinclair* of *Clyth*
David Sinclair of *Freſwick*,
Alexander Sinclair of *Blebſter*
James Sinclair of *Forſe*
William Sutherland of *Gees*
William Cunninghame of *Reaſbo*
John Sinclair of *Stirkock*,
James Murray of *Claden*.
Patrick Murrray of *Scots-Cadel*.
Alexander Williamſon of *Borſeskirk*.

The Burgh of *THORSO*

Alexander Rorieſon Baillie of *Thorſo*
John Swanſon Baillie of *Thorſo*

The Burgh of *WEEK*,

James Doul Baille of *Week*